

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of July 6, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 11 and 13 - 17 have been re-examined with the following result: claim 13 is objected to because it depends on a cancelled claim; claims 11 and 13 - 17 are rejected as indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph because "the opening angle" in claims 11 and 14 "lacks antecedent basis;" claims 11 and 13 - 16 are finally rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Russwurm; and claim 17 is finally rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Russwurm in view of Fu et al.

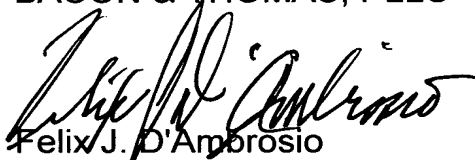
In a bona fide effort to place this application in condition for allowance, claims 13 -15 have been cancelled and the subject matter thereof inserted in claim 11 as amended, claim 16 amended to depend from claim 11 as amended and new claim 21 added to recite the clamp-on feature of the invention. As amended, claim 11 is believed to patentably distinguish over Russwurm alone and in combination with Fu et al.

Russwurm discloses an ultrasonic inline flowmeter which can be considered as having a W-shaped ultrasonic path in the measurement tube and a stepped elevation/depression of the inner wall of the tube at the reflection cite of a parasitic V-shaped path. The V-shaped path is not desired in any way. See column 2, lines 37 - 40, which states that "[t]he object of the present invention is to provide a further measure for the suppression of the signal of the parasitic V-shaped path as compared with the useful signal of the W-shaped path." Therefore, Russwurm provides a special embodiment of a flowmeter for eliminating this undesirable path from the measuring signal. The method of eliminating the parasitic V-shaped signal is based on the interference method. According to the present invention, as recited in claim 11 as amended, the flowmeter goes in the opposite direction. The first and second sonic path are

intentionally generated by using sonic signals of a large opening angle. The propagation of the sonic signals along the two paths is used for calculating at least one system or process parameter. The knowledge of this process or system parameter is necessary to determine the volume flow through the pipe more precisely. The two flowmeters are different structurally and functionally. This should now be clearly seen in claim 11 as amended.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the noted amendments is respectfully requested and claims 11, 16, 17 and 21 allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
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